

Brits/FPD Partnership Concludes, Reports Marked Improvements in Care for PLWHA

Brits District Hospital in South Africa's North West Province has exceeded their expected targets and achieved several significant accomplishments through a CDC-funded Twinning Center partnership with the Pretoria-based Foundation for Professional Development (FPD).

Launched in 2005, the Brits/FPD partnership is the first to graduate from the Twinning Center's technical assistance program.

As the partnership comes to a close, the Twinning Center reports that Brits HIV/AIDS Clinic and its affiliated referral sites provided ARV services to 1,831 patients, exceeding their target by nearly 400 people.

Efforts to expand VCT services to all four clinics involved in the partnership resulted in marked increases in the number of HIV cases reported, with 60 percent of those tested diagnosed as seropositive.

Other notable achievements include increased physician productivity, development of an operational toolkit that supports standardized care and continuous quality improvement, increased integration of HIV and TB care, and implementation of a wellness program.